

## **Resolution CC4 –Canon 15 & 37 - Schools**

Author: Constitution & Canons Committee

October 23, 2013

**RESOLVED, that the present Canon 15 be replaced completely by the proposed Canon and that the present Canon 37 be deleted, as follows:**

### **CANON 15 EPISCOPAL SCHOOLS**

#### **Sec. 15.1. Definitions:**

**1. Episcopal Schools.** All schools or other educational facilities providing secular education for young people equivalent to that provided by nursery schools, pre-schools, kindergarten, grade schools, grammar schools, or high school levels, and located on any premises used for the benefit of or operated under the control, auspices, or approval of any Parish, Mission, organization, or Institution of the Diocese, or any combination or group thereof, shall be an “Episcopal School.” No such school shall be established, maintained, or operated by any Parish, Mission, organization, or Institution of the Diocese, or any combination or group thereof, without the written approval and consent of the Bishop.

**2. Diocesan School.** A Diocesan School is operated under the control, auspices, or approval of the diocese, as a Diocesan Institution, as part of the mission and ministry of the Diocese.

**3. Parochial School.** A Parochial School is operated under the control, auspices, or approval of a Parish or Mission of the Diocese as part of the mission and ministry of that Parish or Mission.

**4. Episcopal Identity.** The Episcopal Identity of the school shall be affirmatively expressed within its mission and governance, its structure, and its operations.

#### **Sec. 15.2. Commission on Episcopal Schools.**

**1.** A Commission on Episcopal Schools is established. Immediately prior to the annual meeting of the Diocesan Convention, the Bishop shall appoint members of the Commission consisting of no less than 3 or more than 7 members. All members shall be either Clergy canonically resident in the Diocese, not subject to ecclesiastical discipline, or Confirmed Communicants in Good Standing in a Parish or Mission of the Diocese. Each Commission member shall have a term of 3 years.

**2.** It shall be the duty of the Commission to:  
**a.** Publish, with consent of the Bishop, Standards for Episcopal Schools in the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth (“Standards”);

b. Define, with the consent of the Bishop, specific components of Episcopal Identity to be required in governance and operations to ensure that the mission, curriculum and programs of the Episcopal Schools are congruent with The Episcopal Church traditions and to give general supervision to each such Episcopal School to ensure its continuing Episcopal Identity;

c. Confirm compliance by each Diocesan or Parochial School with the Standards; and

d. Perform such other functions regarding such Episcopal Schools as the Bishop may require.

**Sec. 15.3 Standards.** All such Episcopal Schools shall comply with such Standards, which Standards are incorporated herein by reference and shall have the authority of canons of the Diocese. The Standards for certification shall include but not be limited to the following:

1. Each Episcopal School shall either (1) maintain accreditation by the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES) or (2) maintain annual certification by the Commission on Episcopal Schools. Each Episcopal School shall be a member of the Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools (SAES).

2. The accession to the authority of the Church, governance, administration, educational philosophy, worship and religious studies of each Episcopal School shall affirmatively reflect Episcopal Identity as defined by the Commission and the Bishop.

3. Each Episcopal School shall maintain tax exempt status and use Episcopal business methods and other business methods required by the Commission.

4. Each Episcopal School shall comply with the Constitution and canons and applicable policies of the Church and the Diocese and comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances affecting the school operations.

5. Each Episcopal School shall report to the Commission annually, in a form required by the Commission.

**Sec. 15.4. Diocesan Schools.** A separate Board of Trustees ("Board") shall manage each Diocesan School. An initial board of twelve (12) trustees shall be appointed by the Bishop and confirmed by the Convention. At each subsequent Convention the Bishop shall appoint, subject to confirmation by the Convention, four (4) trustees who shall serve for three (3) years.

**Sec. 15.5. Failure of Compliance.** Any such school that fails to comply with the provisions of this Canon shall not be entitled to be located on any property that is used for the benefit of any Parish, Mission, institution, or organization of the Diocese; and neither shall it be entitled to be operated under the control, auspices, or approval of any such Parish, Mission, institution, or organization of the Diocese.

**Sec. 15.6. Reports and Inspections.** The Commission and Bishop shall have the right at any time, and from time to time, to require and obtain such additional information and reports as

may be deemed necessary by the Commission and Bishop to ensure compliance with this Canon, and the Commission and Bishop shall likewise have the right at any time, and from time to time, to inspect or cause to be inspected, facilities and records in each such Episcopal School in order to monitor compliance with the provisions of this Canon. The Bishop shall have the right at any time to appoint one or more representatives to assist the Bishop in ensuring compliance with the Canon.

**Sec. 15.7. Report.** The Commission shall report annually in writing to the Convention.

## **DELETE CANON 37**

### **EXPLANATION**

*The replacement Canon 15 will give clearer definition of the roles and responsibilities of all Episcopal Schools in the Diocese. The requirements of deleted Canon 37 “Diocesan Schools” are moved to the overhauled Canon 15 regarding all Episcopal Schools. The School Heads and Rectors agree with these provisions.*